

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

September 15, 2013

www.op97.org

Important Dates

Next Two Weeks	MAP Testing
September 19	Curriculum Night
September 20	The Windy Tall Ship Sailing Field Trip
September 25-27	Dental Clinic

Dear Families,

If you have not sent in the permission slip and fee for the sailing trip this Friday, please do so as soon as you can. **Please be sure to dress your child in warm clothing (coat, hat, and gloves) since it is cold out on the lake. Also send a bag lunch that can be disposed of before returning on the bus.** We must have all forms in by Wednesday to stay organized. If your child's slip didn't make it home or has gone missing, you can download and print a new one at this link:

<http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/Permission+Slips>

Curriculum Night

We hope to see you all at Curriculum Night this Thursday. Our schedule is as follows:

6:15 Presentation in Room 202 (Kraft and Finkbeiner) | Manuel and Zucker rooms open

6:45 Presentation in Room 203 (Manuel and Zucker) | Kraft and Finkbeiner rooms open

7:15 Presentation in Room 202 (Kraft and Finkbeiner) | Manuel and Zucker rooms open

7:45 Presentation in Room 203 (Manuel and Zucker) | Kraft and Finkbeiner rooms open

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com)

Music - Last week, students did a baseline vocal assessment. This was not graded but will be used as a starting point for other singing assessments in the future. We are using the Smart Projection and "Smart Pen" for a rhythm review activity as well as continuing our drum unit. We have also been looking at the origins of music and looked at and listened to a 60,000 year old flute made of the femur bone of a cave bear!

Chorus - If your child is interested in chorus, their permission slip is due this Wednesday. Email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org for a copy if you need one. Our first performance will be Saturday, November 23rd at the Oak Park Arms. More details to come this week!

Spanish - We have been reviewing in Spanish class and are starting to compose and read short stories. I look forward to meeting parents at Curriculum Night this week!
<http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - Calling all Reading Olympians! This year's Reading Olympics (RO) program will begin this week with an introduction to the books on the fall list (please see the media center page and click on Reading Olympics for a fall and spring list, and to view the video I made for a quick introduction to the books). What is RO, you ask? It is an opportunity for every fifth grader in the district to show his or her love for reading. Each fall and spring, students are welcome to form teams of three to read from a list of nine books. Each student is asked to read only three (but may read all nine) of the books and will partake in a competition at Holmes on Wednesday, December 4, answering questions about the books. The winning team from Holmes will go to the district competition to flex their brain muscles in front of the other 8 elementary schools in the district, plus Roosevelt Middle, St. Luke, and St. Giles. Permission slips will go home this week; return the slip to sign up for this extracurricular (NOT mandatory!) activity. Check the library page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>) for details or email me with questions mmaneck@op97.org . Happy reading!

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

Last week we worked on ways to compare and contrast characters, settings, and events in a story. This week we will continue to explore that as well as the sequence in a book. We will work as a whole class, break into smaller groups, and work individually to become more proficient at recognizing how events in a story fit together. Students will graph the beginning, middle, and end of books they are reading and, near the end of the week, show what they know on a common assessment.

Writing

Students will be finishing up their Personal Responsibility paragraphs this week. We will work on the Word Choice trait this week as we write bio poems. Look for your child's poem when you visit the classroom on Curriculum Night! Next week, we will be working on Sentence Fluency. We will use Jane Yolen's 'Owl Moon' as an example of excellent sentence fluency. Writing assignments will vary by homeroom. Be sure to check your child's homeroom teacher's page for due dates.

Math

Last week, our emphasis was on place value and multiplication. One of our goals this year is to help students develop a strong understanding of place value. To that end, we are using different terminology than we have used in the past. For example, instead of saying 30 times 5 equals 120, we may initially phrase the problem as 5 sets of 3 tens equals 12 tens, or 120 in standard form. We began the week by using a place value chart to multiply by powers of ten. Students identified patterns (e.g. multiplying by a power of 10 results in the unit moving to the left on the place value chart) and used these patterns to help with mental multiplication. We also used the distributive property to deconstruct factors when multiplying. Again, this is a very helpful strategy when multiplying mentally. Finally, we modelled multiplication using tape diagrams.

This week, we will continue to work on multiplication. We will use area models to show multiplication and we will also begin discussing the standard algorithm for multiplication. We will ask students to compare the area model method to the standard algorithm in order to help them understand why the standard algorithm works. It is important that students show their thinking. You can help by reminding students to show their work on the homework assignments.

Every 5th grade student needs a calculator. We recommend the TI-15 Explorer calculator as it has fraction functions that we will use later in the year. TI-15 calculators are available from the school at a cost of \$16, payable in cash, or check made out to District 97. You may also order calculators online from the District 97 Web Store.

Science

This week, we will go back to the blacktop on Monday with our gnomon to see if our shadows have changed in length in one week when measured at the same time. We also will learn about potential and kinetic energy, and the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources. Students will be able to create an energy flow from a resource back to the sun since all energy can be traced back to the sun. On Friday, we will learn all about the physics of sailing during our sailing trip on *The Windy* tall ship.

Social Studies

This week, we will continue our explorations of geography and how we use our resources. We will start the week by reviewing the common language we use to find our way around the globe-- longitude and latitude. Then, we will debate whether or not we are using our resources wisely and see our impact on the world around us. We will focus on how we are all connected.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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